

THE COMING FOURTH

WHY WE SHOULD MAKE IT A
"RED-LETTER DAY"

AND GREATEST OF OUR HISTORY.

The Signed Opinions of Congressmen, Senators, and Governors on This Matter, and Our War With Spain.

(For the Dispatch.)

Below are given the opinions of congressmen, senators, and others on our war with Spain and the question of making the coming Fourth of July a red-letter day in our history:

GOVERNOR McLAURIN.

The Fourth of July, being the natal day of the independence of this country, we naturally look to it as an anniversary of rejoicing. It is also significant to every other free American people, as without the freedom of this great country it is not probable that any other part of America would have achieved its independence. But while Cuba may well glory in the Fourth as a day fraught with that unhappy island's destiny, the fact that in it our own freedom is represented eclipses all other thoughts with us.

A. J. McLAURIN,
Governor of Mississippi.

GOVERNOR WOOLCOTT.

The proper observance of Memorial Day recalls the great deeds they commemorate, and strengthens the public appreciation of the value of our institutions and the worth of American citizenship. In the present war deeds of magnificent heroism have already been enacted, and it is natural that the recent memory of these should quicken the pulse of loyalty to the country.

ROGER WOOLCOTT,
Governor of Massachusetts.

SENATOR EUGENE HALE.

I believe the patriotic sentiment which pervades the land will, as a matter of course, show itself on the Fourth of July, and I think this is most natural and desirable.

In these celebrations the leading feature will undoubtedly be expressions of hearty sympathy with the government in the conduct of the war with Spain, and a desire for its near and triumphant end. That end is only a question of time, which I hope will be short. We shall have, out of it, the entire American Continent given to freedom, and do not need to indulge in dreams of far-away conquests in Oriental seas.

EUGENE HALE, U. S. S.

SENATOR QUAY.

I most heartily approve of the intention to make the coming Fourth of July a "red-letter" day in the annals of this country.

M. S. QUAY, U. S. S.

SENATOR FRYE.

Hitherto we have celebrated the birth of our republic, but on this Fourth of July we may also rejoice and be glad in a broad extension of the principles of self-government, and in a new birth of ourselves, which makes us the peer of any European Power and gives us a potential voice in the world's affairs.

WILLIAM P. FRYE, U. S. S.

SENATOR PETTIGREW.

If the war had been carried on upon the high plane where we placed it in the beginning, that freeing the oppressed people of Cuba, and that result had been accomplished, as it might be accomplished before our next Fourth of July, and then we had said we would not acquire any territory, as we did say in the beginning, the coming Fourth of July would be the most memorable in our history, and one tending to arouse the highest sentiment of patriotism and enthusiasm among our people. As it is, I fear we will have little occasion to rejoice. We have entered upon a career of conquest, and upon the acquisition of territory remote from our shores, upon the government of an unwilling people; upon the oppression of those who have no desire to be governed by us; upon the European policy of plundering the inferior nations of the earth.

If the coming Fourth of July will arouse in our people, by recalling to their minds the memory of the past, those sentiments of justice and equality among men so earnestly taught in the early days of our history, it will accomplish much good. We should establish free governments—republics—one in Manila, one in Cuba, and one in Porto Rico, and thus build a monument to those who offered their lives in this contest that will add new glory to our flag.

R. F. PETTIGREW, U. S. S.

GOVERNOR COOKE.

I heartily approve of the plan of making the Fourth of July all the more marked this year, on account of the present crisis, which involves all of us. It is gratifying to the citizens of the United States to feel that the same spirit that actuated our ancestors in '76 underlies the motives and sacrifices which their descendants are making today, and that one hundred and twenty-two years of American independence have only made us all the more patriotic. I hope that the celebration on this coming Fourth will be so widespread and so hearty that it will be a cause of great encouragement to our boys in the field.

LORRIN A. COOKE,
Governor of Connecticut.

SENATOR GALLINGER.

There never has been a time in the history of our country when the Fourth of July should mean more to the people of the United States than this year. We have

fully demonstrated by our national growth and development that the war of the Revolution was justified by every consideration of humanity and civilization, and the war we are now fighting will prove to the world that our country is the agency to secure for less favored and more oppressed people than we the same priceless privileges that our people enjoy. In that view we have the highest possible reason for rejoicing, and our national anniversary should this year be made an occasion of pointing out to the youth of our land the mighty strides that we have made as a people, and the grandeur and glory that is promised to other portions of the world as a result of the contest that we are now waging with the decaying and cruel Kingdom of Spain.

J. H. GALLINGER, U. S. S.

GOVERNOR ATKINSON, OF VA.

I most heartily endorse your determination to make this Fourth of July a gala day, long to be remembered. I confess that the natal day of this great country is not observed as it deserves to be. Its observance is intended to emphasize the founding of the greatest republic on the face of the earth, and to instill into the minds and hearts of our people—and especially the younger classes—love of country and devotion to the cause of universal liberty. This day, therefore, cannot be too generally observed. The more people that you can interest in participating in its celebration, the more abundant will be the results for good, and for the broadening and liberalizing of the minds of all classes of citizens. Now that we are engaged in a war with Spain and our people are all united, it seems to me that the approaching Fourth, should be more generally observed than at any former period of our nation's history.

G. W. ATKINSON,
Governor of West Virginia.

GOVERNOR JOHNSTON.

Whatever political differences may exist, whatever unhappy sectional feeling may survive, the Fourth of July is common inheritance to all the people of the United States, and upon that day every man who believes in republican institutions, who favors a government resting solely upon the consent of the governed, should unite to fittingly celebrate the birthday of the republic, and resolve to perpetuate the principles and policies inaugurated by our fathers and which have made this the most independent and powerful of the nations of the earth.

JOS. F. JOHNSTON,
Governor of Alabama.

GOVERNOR HOLCOMB.

I am heartily in favor of making every Fourth of July a "Red-Letter" day by such celebration as will inspire patriotism and tend to teach every man his rights and duties as a citizen of the republic. That the forthcoming anniversary of the Declaration of Independence will be a peculiarly propitious time to inculcate ideas which tend to broaden the minds of freemen, is beyond dispute.

SILAS A. HOLCOMB,
Governor of Nebraska.

SENATOR TILLMAN.

The superiority of the American navy, giving us command of the ocean and thereby cutting off the Spaniards in Cuba from all source of supplies, will ensure an early end of the war. Prudence and humanity forbid us to push our soldiers into the yellow-fever districts until fall, then there will be a sharp campaign against Havana, and the curtain will fall on the last act of Spanish domination and cruelty in America. The coming Fourth of July should be celebrated as never before, because we now have a reunited country in fact as well as name. But would it not be especially emphasize the necessity for renewing our acquaintance with the principles enunciated in the great Declaration. The shadow of imperialism hangs over the republic. Plutocracy is entrenched in her high places. Americans, while glorying in the heroism of Dewey and Johnson, should not forget that the Roman empire rotted at the core as it increased in area. We can safely rest under the Star Spangled Banner as long as it floats over anything American; conquered provinces of incongruous peoples mean a large standing army, heavy taxes, and danger "to the government of the people, for the people and by the people."

B. R. TILLMAN, U. S. S.

SENATOR FAULKNER.

It is impossible to express an opinion, at this time as to the duration of the war and when the Spanish mind will arrive at the conclusion that each day is continued will add additional humiliation to its national pride. When the Philippines, Puerto Rico, and Cuba are in possession of the American troops, through the intervention of European Powers Spain may be brought to realize that her sacrifices have vindicated her national honor.

I earnestly hope that the spirit of patriotism will be illustrated by the character of proceedings that should take place in every town and city in the Union on the Fourth. No more opportune moment could be seized upon in this hour of national victory than to direct the minds of our people to the wise and conservative thoughts of the "Father of his Country" and the patriots of the past, to avoid entangling alliances while at the same time they react with freedom and fairness the new international doctrine promulgated by Monroe, and which has given freedom to an entire Continent, and prevented alliances which would have enabled the Mother Country to hold in subjection or reconquer American colonies.

CHARLES J. FAULKNER, U. S. S.

SENATOR ALLEN.

The great wave of patriotism that is sweeping the country in consequence of the pending war, and which swells the heart of every true American, is well calculated to add renewed vigor to that spirit which has come down to us from our forefathers, and the idea of giving vent to this patriotic feeling by making

the Fourth of July a "red-letter" day is a good one, and should be encouraged.

While war is, at best, cruel, the present conflict has done much for our own land by sealing with a bond of brotherly love all sections of our common country. It has made manifest to the world that in a battle for humanity against a common foe all past differences are obliterated, and we stand together, knowing neither North nor South, East nor West, but one glorious united republic. We are fighting for the liberation of a people who, having caught the spirit of freedom from us, are struggling to relieve themselves from the galling yoke of a decaying and tyrannical monarchy. This is a war for the liberation of an alien race from the oppression of their kinsmen, and, therefore, a war of humanity and Christianity.

WILLIAM V. ALLEN, U. S. S.

GOVERNOR ATKINSON, OF GEORGIA.

I heartily commend the movement on foot to make this Fourth of July the greatest in the history of our country. Nothing could be more appropriate in the midst of a war which, even if it should not accomplish anything else, will knit more closely the bonds of union, than the impress in a vivid way upon every citizen of the United States that in 12 years we have become the most magnificent nation on earth. Not only will the effect be excellent upon the patriotism of our own citizens, but it will increase our prestige abroad.

The United States is now "one united whole," and "Old Glory" should be honored from Maine to Florida and from the Atlantic to the golden gates of the Pacific.

W. Y. ATKINSON,
Governor of Georgia.

GOVERNOR BLOXHAM.

By all means let us have a "Red-Letter" day in celebrating the Fourth of July. It is a noted milestone on the pathway of our progress and development that will mark an epoch in our country's history.

Seventy-five millions of people should on that day draw new inspiration from the self-sacrificing glories of the heroes and statesmen of 1776.

There was the great successful effort to emancipate the human mind, body, and property, from the lingering remnants of feudal dominion, and, unshackled by the fetters of ancient prejudice, that humanity might bask in the sunlight of freedom.

The great principles which had electrified the soul of Hampden and vivified the martyrdom of Sidney became a cornerstone in our temple of freedom.

Yes, celebrate the day and rejoice that no sectional lines mar our patriotic ardor, and that we meet the immense responsibilities of the future with courage, devotion to country, and trust in the supreme guidance of an All-wise Power.

W. D. BLOXHAM,
Governor of Florida.

GOVERNOR RAMSDELL.

While I most earnestly hope for an early termination of the war, I do not expect it.

The approaching Fourth of July will find the United States engaged in an honorable war with one of the old empires of the world; an empire which at one time had large possessions in the Western Hemisphere. Having in the early history of this country used the same, among vast revenues, in building the strong land fortifications which our army is now engaged in overthrowing.

The anniversary of our nation's birth will occur at a time when it will be comparatively easy to see the character of the things that are to be done. It is high time that senseless, grotesque processions were abandoned, and that our people rise to a full comprehension of a proper celebration of the Fourth of July. Let us on that day take account of what we have done for our nation and what we ought to do in the future.

GEORGE A. RAMSDELL,
Governor of New Hampshire.

SENATOR NELSON.

It is very difficult to foretell how long the present war with Spain is likely to last. The Philippine Islands will soon be wholly captured and will be held until peace is restored at least. As to Porto Rico, I imagine its conquest would not take very long, barring the climate at this season of the year.

In respect to Cuba, considered by itself alone without reference to conditions in Spain, the war could be prolonged for a considerable time. Assuming that Havana is duly provisioned, it may take some time to capture it, and until that is accomplished Cuba will still be in possession of Spain. But the whole situation is complicated by affairs in Spain and the interest of the Powers of Europe in her welfare. The necessities of Spain may force her to an early peace, or the war may be prolonged; but in my opinion it cannot last longer than the beginning of next year, if that long.

I am aware that this is simply a naked opinion, and is not based upon a careful study of the situation from a military or naval standpoint. The fact that it is nothing more than a guess and a hope. As to the celebration of the Fourth of July: In Minnesota we always celebrate it, and aim to make each celebration greater and more enthusiastic than the one which preceded it, and I have no doubt we will do the same this year.

KNUTE NELSON, U. S. S.

SENATOR HANSBROUGH.

No true American could array himself against the unanimous sentiment prevailing in this country in favor of what you may term a "red-letter" Fourth-of-July celebration. Not only is this true, but it is the duty of every American.

It seems to me, to favor such an extraordinary celebration as will mark this period of our wonderful history with the emphatic declaration that swaddling clothes no longer are becoming to this nation. This is a large country of ours, but we have got to have more room, and we are going to have it. Hawaii, where the Fourth of July has been celebrated for the last forty years, must be ours, and we are in no danger of being

obliged to ask Germany or any other foreign nation to help us let go of the Philippines or Porto Rico.

Truly this is a good year to celebrate on a very large scale, and the American people are going to do it.

H. C. HANSBROUGH, U. S. S.

SENATOR PERKINS.

Relative to the popular intention to make this Fourth of July a "red-letter" day, as far as the celebration of the anniversary is concerned, I am very glad to say that I heartily approve of the plan. It is clear to all thinking men that the idea which underlay the declaration of July 4, 1776, is stronger than ever before, and that it is about to produce effects of incalculable importance to our own country, as well as to others; and it may well be considered that the coming Fourth of July will mark the beginning of a new advance of humanity on the lines which have led us to our present prosperity and success. The war, which is the striking evidence of the vigor of the idea of freedom, even now adding strength to that idea. It is also broadening men's minds, forcing thought into new channels, and compelling a realization of the vast opportunities which are within the grasp of the nation.

I believe that, if we take what is offered us, the coming Fourth of July will mark the beginning of an era of national development which will far surpass in rapidity and extent that which has up to this day astonished the world. I think that the popular desire to make the next Fourth of July a "red-letter" anniversary is due to an unformulated belief that we are on the verge of great events. Such a celebration would, therefore, be eminently right and proper, and I hope that the idea will be carried out.

GEORGE C. PERKINS, U. S. S.

SENATOR MANTLE.

By all means let the coming Fourth of July be a "red-letter" anniversary of the Declaration of Independence. Never since the old Liberty Bell rang out to the world the glorious tidings of the birth of a new nation destined to rival in the splendor and grandeur of its achievements all that had gone before have the attending circumstances and conditions of the times been so fitting for a grand display of patriotic fervor and popular enthusiasm as now. With a united country, with every vestige of sectionalism swept away, with the cruel memories of the civil war mellowed and dimmed by the passing years and fading away like a dream, with the soul-stirring strains of the "Star Spangled Banner" now sweeping in one grand diapason of harmony from ocean to ocean, quickening the pulses and firing the hearts of all our people, inspiring and uniting them in a common impulse of love of country and unquestioning devotion to its beautiful flag—the Declaration of Independence of the approaching Fourth of July should indeed be worthy of all the splendid events the day typifies—one that shall give emphasis and approval to the rightest struggle in which the nation is now engaged, and inspiration and strength to the heroes who upon sea and land under the flag of freedom are once again battling in the sacred cause of human liberty and for the right of self-government as did our fathers a century and a quarter ago.

LEE MANTLE, U. S. S.

SENATOR KYLE.

I heartily approve of and rejoice in the magnificent demonstrations of the American people in connection with Independence Day. The breezy and the flag have taught history and instilled a patriotism without parallel amongst the nations of the earth. While we all regret the sectional strife of the sixties, we now rejoice in a union—never stronger and in the face of a foreign foe our sons stand side by side under the folds of the same flag, singing alternately "Dixie" and the "Star Spangled Banner."

There are those political sects who, in their radical efforts at reform, have cast reflections on the flag, but to-day they are relegated to obscurity, and a patriotic people—never more loyal and united in the defence and perpetuity of our nation and its institutions.

Here's to the flag and Independence Day, with the hope that the blessing of liberty may soon be granted to the struggling patriots of Cuba.

JAMES H. KYLE, U. S. S.

SENATOR MONEY.

The celebration of the Declaration of Independence on the Fourth of July should be and will be of extraordinary character and interest.

The fundamental declaration of a bill of rights, as celebrated every year, revitalizes the love of liberty in every American heart. Now, a reunited Union, involved in a just war for the sake of humanity and liberty, will meet on this glorious Fourth all over the country with a spontaneous outburst of enthusiasm and patriotic energy.

H. D. MONEY, U. S. S.

SENATOR DANIEL.

The Fourth of July, 1888, will find the country as thoroughly united as it is free and independent. To those who have passed through the terrible and trying sections it will bring peculiar happiness, and to all it should be a day of national thanksgiving for the crowning blessings which a kind Providence has so generously bestowed upon this nation.

JOHN W. DANIEL, U. S. S.

SENATOR DAVIS.

It is impossible at this time to make an estimate as to the probable length of the war with Spain.

I certainly believe in celebrating the Fourth of July in such manner as will most fully illustrate its great history and beneficent meaning to mankind.

C. K. DAVIS, U. S. S.

SENATOR DEBOE.

I am in full sympathy with making the celebration of the Fourth of July the most memorable in the history of our country. If the love of liberty dies in our hearts, it cannot be transmitted to our descendants; if the fires of patriotism are not kept burning in our hearts, chaos will usurp the throne of order and the

sun of universal liberty will go down in eternal night.

To-day our glorious country is in war, not for conquest, but for the relief of suffering humanity and the freedom and liberty of a long-oppressed people. For more than a century civil liberty has pointed to the Fourth of July as the crowning epoch in the world's history. Let this Fourth of July, with the freedom and independence of Cuba in sight, be celebrated so as to be the most memorable of all others.

J. DEBOE, U. S. S.

SENATOR M'BRIDE.

Respecting the evident popular intention to make the celebration of the Fourth of July the occasion for an unusual display of patriotic spirit:

At this time, when our country is engaged in war with a foreign Power in order that the blessings of liberty and good government, which we enjoy, may be given to our unfortunate neighbors in Cuba, long suffering from a cruel despotism, it is but natural, as it is right, that the celebration of the anniversary of our own Independence Day should be accompanied with an intensity of feeling and patriotic fervor, manifesting the devotion of our people to the principles of human freedom and to the uplifting of oppressed humanity.

GEORGE W. M'BRIDE, U. S. S.

REPRESENTATIVE DE VRIES.

The inspiring realization of this great republic, founded in liberty and for the establishment of liberty at the close of the nineteenth century, in the youth of its existence, consummating at once the establishment of liberty in Cuba and the inextinguishable cementing of our own into one people, with one cause and one flag, a united country, warrants and demands the most elaborate of all natal-day celebrations that the unbounded patriotism of our people may have opportunity of expression, both that we may know our own hearts and that the world may be instructed of our greatness.

MARION DE VRIES, M. C.

REPRESENTATIVE SHAFROTH.

Our nation to-day, in commerce, manufacture, agriculture, and mining, is equal to more than one-third of all the balance of the world. Our nation has done more to extend the principles of liberty over the world than all others. It has made the subject a citizen throughout the Western Hemisphere. Its conflict with Spain is a war against tyranny and oppression and in behalf of liberty and civilization.

For the blessings of a government under which such development is possible, the greatest enthusiasm should be manifested in celebrating our Independence Day.

JOHN F. SHAFROTH, M. C.

REPRESENTATIVE BELL.

Yes, let us make the Fourth of July, 1888, the greatest celebration in our history. While our people are wrought up with martial glory, we should not be forgetful of the civic virtues of our population. The very fact that we have the greatest sailors and soldiers of the world has a tendency to give such an exaltation to the martial spirit of the young that the civil obligations are liable to be smothered. I want to see the cardinal doctrines of the Declaration of Independence reaffirmed. I believe they are as necessary to our well-being now as they were at the time of their promulgation.

JOHN C. BELL, M. C.

SENATOR LINDSAY.

It would be exceptionally appropriate during the present year to celebrate the anniversary of the Declaration with patriotic earnestness. There could be no better time for recalling to the American mind the true principles of American government than whilst engaged in a war the result of which may lead to difficulties and complications such as this government has never heretofore been called upon to deal with. I hope your idea of making the Fourth of July a memorable day may be accepted and carried out by the American people.

WILLIAM LINDSAY, U. S. S.

SENATOR SMITH, JR.

Intense love of country exists in every American citizen, and nothing is needed to add to its force; but a general and enthusiastic celebration of the day might lead us to a more thorough appreciation of the men whose wisdom and courage did so much to spread government by the people all over the world.

JAMES SMITH, JR., U. S. S.

REPRESENTATIVE MANN.

The Declaration of Independence has this year become a declaration for humanity. Our volunteer army to-day proves that even the spirit of 1776 has been broadened. Patriotism is again supreme in our hearts.

JAMES R. MANN, M. C.

REPRESENTATIVE HEMENWAY.

The efforts of the newspapers of this country to make July Fourth, 1888, a "red-letter" anniversary are certainly commendable. All over the country I learn that great preparations are being made, and the First District of Indiana, which I represent, proposes to lead the Central States in this celebration.

J. A. HEMENWAY, M. C.

REPRESENTATIVE BELKNAP.

I heartily approve of the proposed intention of having an old-time, enthusiastic, and general celebration of the Fourth of July. Such a celebration would be most fitting at this particular time, serving as it would, as a splendid evidence of patriotism at home, and to all the people of foreign lands.

HUGH R. BELKNAP, M. C.

SENATOR JONES.

I have always believed that the American people were duly appreciative of the Fourth of July, and that it will continue to be observed as it has been for a great number of years in the past, as a day of rejoicing on the part of all lovers of freedom.

JAMES K. JONES, U. S. S.